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Welcome to this month's issue of *Solar Newsbriefs*, brought to you by the Washington State University Energy Program. Please feel free to forward this issue to those of your colleagues interested in solar energy. For archives of past *Solar Newsbriefs*, visit

<http://www.energy.wsu.edu/solarnewsbriefs.aspx>

Oregon News

Student Project Adds Solar Power to Warrenton High School

It took on average 873 kilowatt-hours of electricity a day to power Warrenton High School over the past year, equivalent to what the average U.S. home requires in a month. A summer student project will supply a small portion of the high school's power needs with a 3 kW solar array installed on top of a breezeway – by Edward Stratton, *The Astorian*, August 26, 2019:

[https://www.dailyastorian.com/news/local/student-project-adds-solar-power-to-warrenton-high-school/article_70911464-c836-11e9-9372-](https://www.dailyastorian.com/news/local/student-project-adds-solar-power-to-warrenton-high-school/article_70911464-c836-11e9-9372-afcf7448955f.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=user-share)

[afcf7448955f.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=user-share](https://www.dailyastorian.com/news/local/student-project-adds-solar-power-to-warrenton-high-school/article_70911464-c836-11e9-9372-afcf7448955f.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=user-share)

Oak Leaf Park Reopens with Solar Array, New Mobile Homes

Building climate resilience requires making clean energy and energy efficiency investments with frontline communities. Most recently, Verde convened partners to explore an energy project at the Oak Leaf Mobile Home Park, ultimately building a 10kW solar array at the park's new community center. The solar array offsets 100% of the energy usage in the building. This is the second solar array that Verde has facilitated in the Cully neighborhood, the first a 76kW solar installation at St. Charles Church – Verde website, July 15, 2019: <http://www.verdenw.org/verde-news/2019/7/15>

Sustainability Leaders Claim PGE's Green Future Impact in Record

Portland General Electric (NYSE: POR) recently launched Green Future Impact, a new solution that helps large commercial and industrial customers source 100% of their electricity from new wind or solar renewable energy facilities. After enrollment opened, customers committed to purchase output equal to an approximately 160-megawatt renewable energy facility in just over three minutes – Read PGE's August 21, 2019 press release at: <https://www.portlandgeneral.com/our-company/news-room/news-releases/2019/08-21-2019-sustainability-leaders-claim-pges-green-future-impact-in-record-time>

Washington News

Olympia Nonprofit Asks Public to Help Fund Solar Panels for Hands On Children's Museum

The Olympia City Council has given its Ok to a new solar energy project at the Hands On Children's Museum. The council last week approved the lease of the Hands on Children's Museum's roof to Olympia Community Solar (OCS), a nonprofit that wants to install solar panels to help offset the museum's energy consumption and costs. An innovative twist to what is being called the Hummingbird Project: Olympia Community Solar is inviting the public to help fund the panels – by Helen Smith, *The Olympian*, August 25, 2019: <https://www.theolympian.com/news/local/article234263177.html>

PUD Waives \$100 Fee for New Solar Customers

The Jefferson County Public Utility District (PUD) is not only looking to make it more convenient for its customers to connect to solar power, but it also aims to capitalize upon its own solar project as an educational opportunity. On August 19, PUD Communications Manager Will O'Donnell addressed the Port Townsend City Council, informing them that the PUD has submitted permits to install a ground-mounted 100-kilowatt community solar field at the corner of Lawrence and Kearney streets in Port Townsend, in a vacant lot adjoining a PUD substation. PUD General Manager Kevin Streett has said that, if those permits can be obtained, he hopes to begin construction in the spring of 2020 – Kirk Boxleitner, *The Leader*, September 4, 2019:

<https://www.ptleader.com/stories/pud-waives-100-fee-for-new-solar-customers,64488>

Clark Public Utilities' Community Solar Site Hits New Production Peak

Clark Public Utilities, a customer-owned public utility serving roughly 200,000 customers in Clark County, Wash., says its community solar site has hit a new record for energy production. In turn, participants in the community solar program will see increased savings – Betsy Lillian, *Solar Industry*, August 15, 2019:

https://solarindustrymag.com/clark-public-utilities-community-solar-site-hits-new-production-peak?utm_medium=email&utm_source=LNH+08-16-2019&utm_campaign=SI+Latest+News+Headlines

The Urgent Need to Diversify the Solar Workforce

Washington's solar workforce grew by eighteen percent from 2018-2017. Moreover, thanks to planned solar projects and new state laws encouraging clean energy development, the industry is poised to grow even further. But absent an effort to cultivate and hire a diverse workforce, communities of color and women will not be fairly represented in Washington's growing solar workforce – Sameer Ranadae, *Front and Centered Blog*, August 19, 2019: <https://frontandcentered.org/the-urgent-need-to-diversify-the-solar-workforce/>

Pacific Northwest Facility to Study Grid Security, Resilience

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory has been picked as the site of a new national grid energy research facility by the Department of Energy. The proposed project would mean tens of millions of dollars will be spent on a new complex at the Richland campus of the Department of Energy national laboratory – Annette Cary, *Tri City Herald*, August 23, 2019:

<https://www.govtech.com/fs/infrastructure/Pacific-Northwest-Facility-to-Study-Grid-Security-Resilience.html>

Agrivoltaics

Study Underscores 'Huge Potential' Of Agrivoltaics

The most productive places on Earth for solar power are farmlands, claims a recent study from Oregon State University (OSU). The study, published in the journal *Scientific Reports*, finds that if less than 1% of agricultural land were converted to solar panels, it would be sufficient to fulfill global electric energy demand. The concept of co-developing the same area of land for both solar photovoltaic power and conventional agriculture is known as agrivoltaics, explains OSU – Posted by Betsy Lillian, *Solar Industry*, August 13, 2019: <https://solarindustrymag.com/study-underscores-huge-potential-of-agrivoltaics>

Agricultural Land best for Solar, Oregon State Study Finds

Agricultural land is the best place to do solar power, but food production and renewable energy generation don't have to be foes, according to a new study led by Oregon State University researchers. The scientists found that croplands, grasslands and wetlands offer the best conditions for solar harvesting – “plentiful (sunlight), light winds, moderate temperatures and low humidity” – Pete Danko, *Portland Business Journal*, August 14, 2019: <https://www.bizjournals.com/portland/news/2019/08/14/agricultural-land-best-for-solar-oregon-state.html>

Solar PV Power Potential is Greatest over Croplands

Solar energy has the potential to offset a significant fraction of non-renewable electricity demands globally, yet it may occupy extensive areas when deployed at this level. There is growing concern that large renewable energy installations will displace other land uses. Where should future solar power installations be placed to achieve the highest energy production and best use the limited land resource? To continue reading the abstract, and, access the full report, see: *Scientific Reports* 9, Article number: 11442 (2019): <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-019-47803-3>

Agrivoltaics Proves Mutually Beneficial Across Food, Water, Energy Nexus

Building resilience in renewable energy and food production is a fundamental challenge in today's changing world, especially in regions susceptible to heat and drought. Agrivoltaics, the co-locating of agriculture and solar photovoltaic panels, offers a possible solution, with new research reporting positive impacts on food production, water savings and the efficiency of electricity production – Stacy Pigot, *UA News*, September 2, 2019: <https://uanews.arizona.edu/story/agrivoltaics-proves-mutually-beneficial-across-food-water-energy-nexus>

Community Solar

Everyone Loves a Guaranteed Discount: New Financing Approach Drives Community Solar Growth

Community solar is transforming as promises of electricity bill savings, ambitious utility build-outs and business model innovations are shifting traditional approaches and driving growth. Herman K. Trabish, *Utility Dive*, August 15, 2019:

<https://www.utilitydive.com/news/everyone-loves-a-guaranteed-discount-new-financing-approach-drives-communi/559180/>

Conferences

Washington State Solar Summit, Bellevue, WA – October 18, 2019

The Washington State Solar Summit is an important annual conference and networking event for industry stakeholders including manufacturers, installers, utilities, municipalities, legislators, educators, students, advocacy organizations/nonprofits, distributors, financial lenders, consultants and more. Last year over 250 industry professionals gathered to network and tackle the issues facing the solar energy landscape in Washington. For more information and to register:

https://www.solarwa.org/2019_solar_summit_register

GridFroward 2019, Seattle, WA – October 7-9, 2019

Accelerate grid modernization at GridFWD 2019. Join 90+ senior leaders from utilities, solution providers, regulatory agencies, governments and advocates. Learn about modernization best practices, emerging markets & models, and building a culture of innovation. Grid-focused trainings and tours round out this three-day event. This event will be held at Benaroya Hall in Seattle, October 7-9, 2019. For more information see: <https://gridforward.org/events/gridfwd-2019/>

Want to Contribute? If you have information on events, publications or other solar topics that you would like mentioned in an upcoming issue of Solar Newsbriefs, please contact Anne Whitney at whitneya@energy.wsu.edu

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